Legislation for prevention of fake seeds

302. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are coming with a legislation against the sale of fake seeds to farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the other plans of Government to stop the sale of fake seeds; and

(d) the time by which it will be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (c) Seeds Bill, 2004 was introduced in Rajya Sabha in December, 2004. The Bill subsumes the provisions of the Seeds Act, 1966, Seeds Rule, 1968 and Seeds (Control) Order, 1983 in addition to making special provisions for compulsory registration of varieties, regulation of Genetically Modified Crops, compensation to the farmers, enhancement of penalty provisions, enforcement of seed law by the Seeds Inspectors etc. The Seeds Bill, 2004 is intended to strengthen quality control of seeds. Enforcement of the existing legal instruments on quality control of seeds vests with the State Governments/Union Territories. Inspectors notified under the existing legal instruments are empowered to draw the samples, seize the stock, issue stop sale order in case of sale of fake seeds. The offences under the existing legal provisions are punishable.

(d) The Seeds Bill, 2004 has been referred to the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Agriculture for deliberation and consideration.

Checking supply of spurious cotton seeds

303. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that cotton cultivators have suffered a lot as spurious seeds are flooding the market;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken by Government or proposed to be taken to check the supply of spurious seeds which causes heavy loss of crops to farmers?